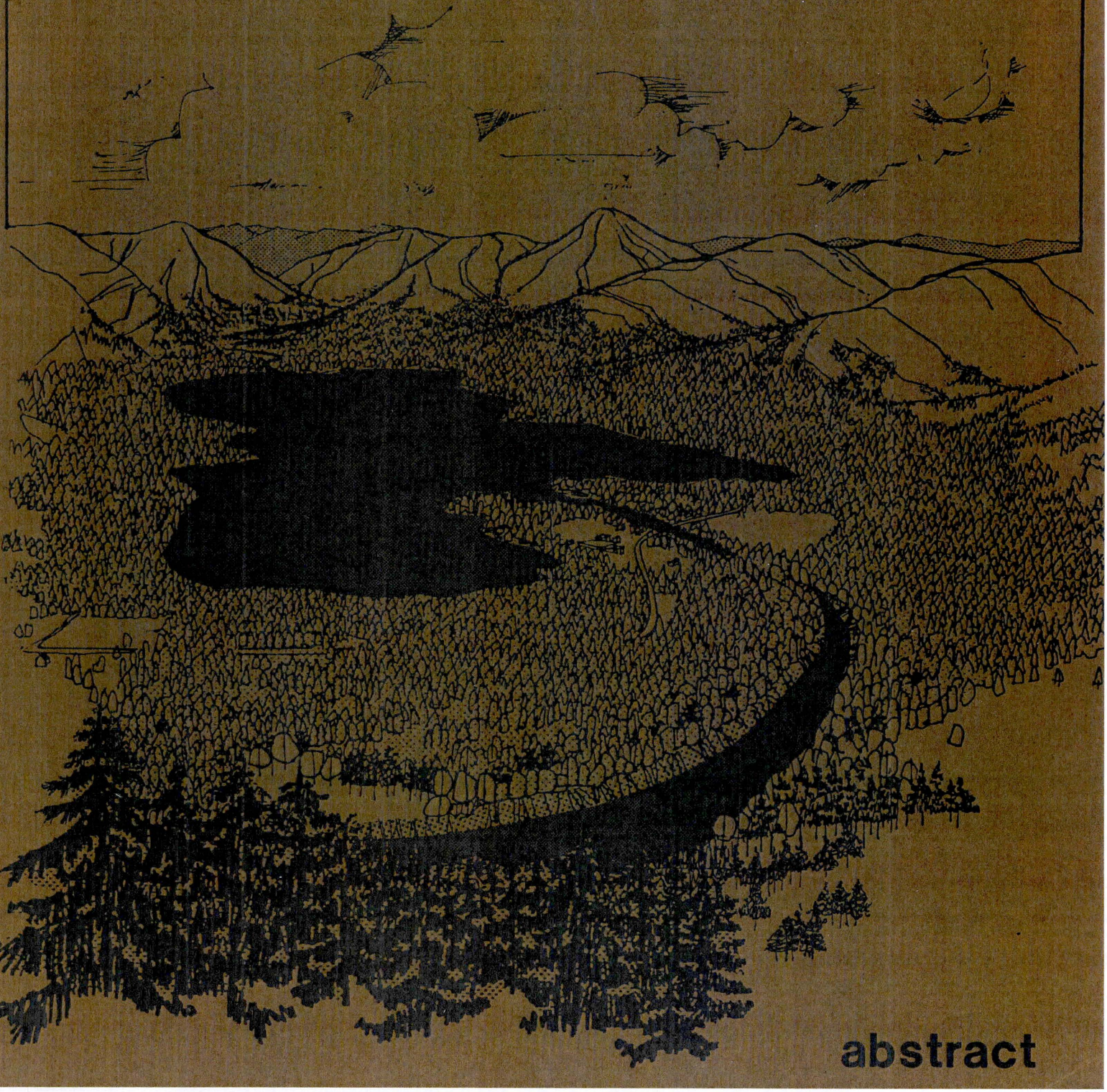
LAKE QUINAULT
SOUTH SHORE COMPOSITE PLAN

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST
WASHINGTON



abstract

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I Introduction

The Olympic National Forest proposes to implement a composite plan for the Lake Quinault Special Management Area (composite area). The plan affects 1,637 acres of land administered by the Forest Service in the Quinault Ranger District. The focus of the plan is on 376 acres of the management area that are developed and occupied adjacent to the south shore of Lake Quinault.

The study was conducted as an environmental assessment of the composite area, with the objective of developing a specific plan and management direction for the composite area. The process was based upon the identification of issues, concerns and opportunities by the Forest Service, general public, interest groups and an interdisciplinary consultant team. With this as a base, a land suitability analysis and a recreation market analysis were developed to determine potential areas that could accept or would constrain development and the anticipated number of recreation users that could be expected to visit the composite area.

Armed with this information, five (5) alternative land use plans were developed and presented to the public through a mailer of October 13, 1979 and a public meeting on October 21, 1979. Each alternative was then further analyzed along with the public comments received to select the preferred Lake Quinault Composite Plan.

The alternatives considered in developing the preferred plan were:

1. Continue present management with limited action -- essentially, a "no change" option.

2. Provide maximum public recreation opportunities with new campgrounds. Remove the physical presence of the Forest Service with relocation of its facility to the south shore.

3. Provide maximum private recreation opportunities with lodge expansion. Remove the physical presence of the Forest Service as in Alternative 2.

4. Emphasize community identity by increasing the economic base and providing community playfields and community meeting areas. Maintain Forest Service presence but relocate Forest Service maintenance facilities to a site near the sewage treatment plan.

5. Maximize public recreation with an emphasis on increasing the Forest Service role in recreation by providing new campgrounds to serve a diverse set of user groups. Maintain Forest Service presence but relocate its maintenance facilities as in Alternative 4.

The Forest Service preferred plan, to be referred to as the Lake Quinault Composite Plan, is a combination of Alternatives 1 through 5. The composite plan is a balanced approach to recreation development, with the provision of 50 new campsites including one new campground, and with

provisions to allow the Lake Quinault Lodge to expand as indicated in the recreation market analysis. The Forest Service presence would be maintained but the maintenance facility would be relocated off the lake shore as in Alternatives 4 and 5. All existing campgrounds are maintained and redesigned to improve their accessibility and to achieve their potential use. Two areas, Olallie and Gatton Creek Flat, are reserved, to be monitored and possibly used in future campground or day-use expansion. All existing trails are to be upgraded to provide better year-round access, and two new trails (totalling 4 miles) are to be developed. Additionally, the plan, through the resource analysis and recreation analysis, sets the direction for management of soils, water, visual, recreation, and timber resources of the composite area.

The primary environmental impact of the preferred plan would be the relocation of maintenance facilities, lodge and campground expansion, and increased visitor use of the composite area. The area upslope from South Shore Road with the exception of Willaby Flat and trail expansion will be maintained in its near-natural condition and would receive only minor, if any, effects of the composite plan.

II Lake Quinault South Shore Composite Plan

A. Lake Quinault Composite Plan

After presentation and evaluation of the preceding alternatives, the Forest Service selected a preferred plan, the Lake Quinault Composite Plan. The Forest Service selection process reflects the five (5) alternatives, public comment, and their legal planning obligations.

The plan, illustrated on Plate 1A emphasizes a mix of public and private investment to serve the composite. Under this plan, the Forest Service maintenance and bunkhouse facilities would be relocated to a site near the sewage treatment plant. This would allow expansion of Falls Creek Campground. The Lake Quinault Lodge would be allowed to expand, under specified conditions, as indicated by the recreation market analysis. A total of 95 campsites would be developed through redesign and expansion of existing campgrounds and by developing a new campground at Willaby Flat. Total projected visitors under the composite plan would increase to 93,000 annually during the 1980-1984 planning period to 117,000 for 1995-2000. Peak visitors on design day are estimated to grow from 441 per year during 1980-1984 to 635 per year by 1995-2000.

1. Plan Elements

a. U.S. Forest Service Improvements

(1) Relocate the U.S . Forest Service bunkhouse, warehousing and shop facilities to a site near the sewage treatment plant and trailercourt. Efficient site planning would site the facilities to buffer the surrounding area including the cemetery and bunkhouse from the maintenance and sewer facilities.

(2) Retain and expand the administrative offices at their present location. Restore the former maintenance site with landscape plantings, opening the lakeshore to public use.

(3) Remove the U.S. Forest Service house to the south of Lake Quinault Lodge within five (5) years. Phase out the two (2) Forest Service housing units on the lakeshore over a timeframe of 5-10 years. Maintain the remaining Forest Service housing units utilizing the trailercourt for seasonal and full-time housing.

b. Developed Campground Sites

(1) Falls Creek: Redesign to allow efficient movement of vehicles and to provide better camping experiences. Remove all overnight campsites adjacent to the lakeshore and reserve shoreline areas for open space and day

uses. Expand into the former U.S. Forest Service maintenance and bunkhouse area for additional overnight campsites and day use activities. Institute other site improvements such as landscape planting, shelters, directional graphics, orientation and locational signing. Develop to an experience level 4 at a density of 4.0 campsites per acre.

(2) Willaby: Redesign by removing overnight campsites adjacent to the lakeshore to allow open space, day uses and public access to the lake edge. Institute other site improvements such as shelters, landscape planting and signing to improve trail connections through the campground. Develop to an experience level of 4 at a density of 1.5 campsites per acre.

(3) Gatton Creek Picnic Site: Redesign parking, picnicking and swimming areas. Provide a shelter and limited restroom facilities for day users. Restore the lake edge and parking area through landscape planting. Develop to an experience level 4. Establish an area across the road from the picnic site (Gatton Creek Flat) for future day use activities and support facilities such as additional picnic and parking areas.

(4) Olallie: Reserve this site for potential recreation use at some future date. Begin to restore the site with selective removal of dangerous trees. This will not be developed for recreation during this planning period but is to be studied further to assess recreation demand and use.

(5) Willaby Flat: Develop a new campground across from Willaby Campground (45 new sites). Minimize site disturbance by developing areas of 10 percent or less slope and by using an abandoned logging road for at least one access point. Keep the development low-key with an emphasis on natural succession in disturbed or cleared areas. Develop to an experience level 3 at a density of 1.7 campsites per acre.

c. Trail Improvements

(1) Quinault Loop: Improve the existing trail system to allow diverse user groups access to the composite area. Provide shelters and interpretive areas along its route.

(2) New Trails: Develop a new trail from Willaby Flat Campground to connect with the Quinault loop system. Extend the Quinault loop trail up Willaby Creek connecting to the old Humptulips trail, thus providing hiking access to South Quinault Ridge, Neilton and other areas outside the composite. Develop a bicycle/pedestrian path along the South Shore Road, where feasible, the entire length of the study area to US-101.

d. Other Public Areas

(1) Open Space: The areas designated in the composite plan as open space are not presently assigned specific land uses. They can be considered for other land uses at some future date. It is likely that these considerations would occur beyond the planning period of this report.

(2) Dispersed Use Areas: The areas designated for dispersed use are areas allocated for recreation of a passive nature. They will not be developed for campground uses or other more intensive land uses. They are primarily corridors for trails and buffers to maintain the lake edge character.

(3) Big Tree Grove Parking: Develop a parking area with a comfort station at the trailhead to Big Tree Grove near Willaby Creek.

e. Utilities

(1) Sewer: New connections would be required at Willaby Flat. Presently, capacity exists to handle these additions. Additionally, sewer connections would be made available to the lodge upon request.

(2) Water: Water would have to be provided to Willaby Flat, preferably by the Quinault Water Association.

(3) Transportation: Improve access points to all existing campgrounds to eliminate hazardous intersections. At Falls Creek investigate a new entrance through the former maintenance area. Increase the number of traffic and locational signing for visitor information and traffic control.

2. Private Facilities

a. Lake Quinault Lodge: Recognize Lake Quinault Lodge as a destination resort complex and set aside an area for future expansion. Any expansion should retain the historic character of the lodge as well as provide services that emphasize its rain forest location. With expansion allow improved parking, additional rooms, support facilities, and a provision for management housing. Expansion would only take place after the lodge submits a master plan that would typically detail the following:

(1) Building plans

(2) Floor plans and uses

(3) Solution to the sewage disposal problem that meets state and county health standards

(4) Addresses shoreline improvements and the lodge's interface with other adjoining permittees.

b. Recreation Residences: Phase out two (2) residences between Falls Creek and the lodge (Lots 66 and 67) and one (1) residence across from Gatton Creek Picnic Area (Lot 130). Reaffirm continuance of permits to the remaining residences within current policies.

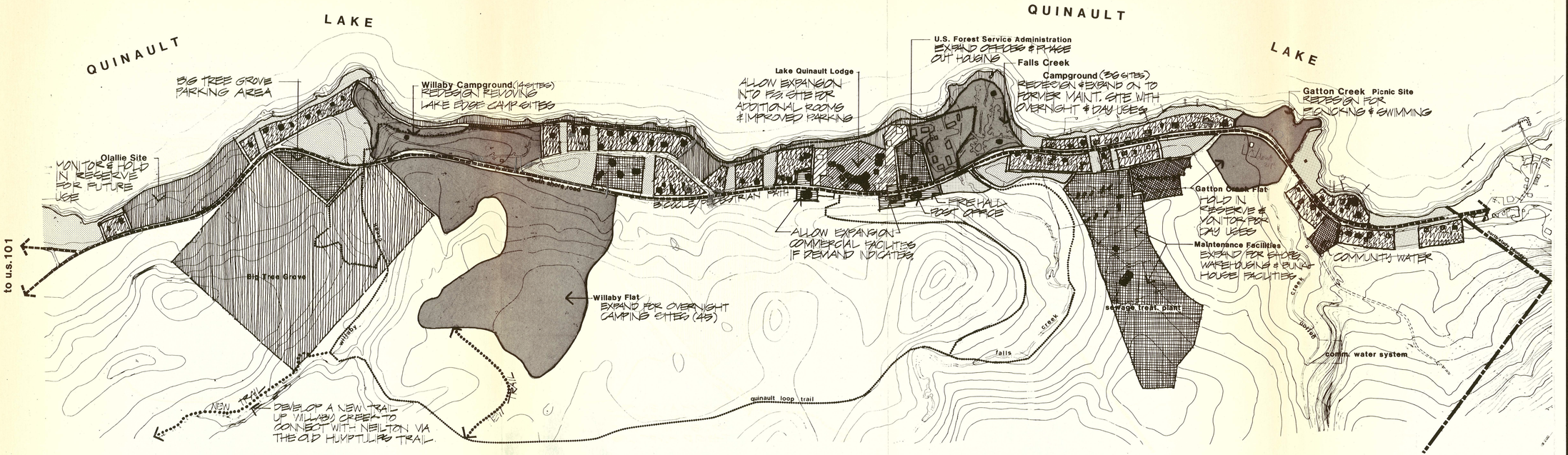
c. Commercial Facilities: Allow expansion of the mercantile or gas station as market demand dictates providing expansion is consistent with outdoor recreation uses and meets stringent design review. Continuance of commercial facilities would be subject to current permit policies. New commercial activities would be limited to support facilities needed for lodge expansion.

d. Cemetery: The cemetery would continue under its present permit conditions and boundaries.

e. Post Office: Allow the existing permit to continue. In the future, any reasonable alternative would be considered.

f. Firehall: Space will be provided in the developed area along the south shore road for a firehall.

SOUTH SHORE COMPOSITE PLAN


QUINAULT LAKE
QUINAULT LAKE
BIG TREE GROVE PARKING AREA
Willaby Campground (14 SITES) REDESIGN REVOVING LAKE EDGE CAMP SITES
Lake Quinault Lodge
ALLOW EXPANSION INTO FIG. SITE FOR ADDITIONAL ROOMS & IMPROVED PARKING
U.S. Forest Service Administration
EXPAND OFFICES & PHASE OUT HOUSING
Falls Creek
Campground (36 SITES)
REDESIGN & EXPAND ON TO FORMER MAINT. SITE WITH OVERNIGHT & DAY USES
Gatton Creek Picnic Site
REDESIGN FOR BOATING & SWIMMING
Olallie Site
MONITOR & HOLD IN RESERVE FOR FUTURE USE
to u.s.101
south shore road
BICYCLE/PEDESTRIAN PATH
FIRE HALL POST OFFICE
ALLOW EXPANSION COMMERCIAL FACILITIES IF DEMAND INDICATES
Gatton Creek Flat
HOLD IN RESERVE & MONITOR FOR DAY USES
Maintenance Facilities
EXPAND FOR SHOPS, WAREHOUSING & BUNK HOUSE FACILITIES
COMMUNITY WATER
Big Tree Grove
Willaby Flat
EXPAND FOR OVERNIGHT CAMPING SITES (45)
willaby creek
falls creek
sewage treat. plant
comm. water system
NEW TRAIL
DEVELOP A NEW TRAIL UP WILLABY CREEK TO CONNECT WITH NEILTON VIA THE OLD HUMPTULIPS TRAIL
quinault loop trail

QUINAULT LAKE

COMPOSITE PLAN ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS

OLYMPIC NATIONAL FOREST WASHINGTON

LEGEND

- recreation residences
- rec. residences to be phased out
- u.s.f.s. facilities
- developed recreation sites
- dispersed use areas
- open space
- existing / expanded — lake quinault lodge
- commercial facilities
- community use
- trails
- bicycle/pedestrian path
- study boundary

NORTH

0 200 400 1000ft.

contour interval: 5'

PLATE 1-A

III Management Requirerments and Monitoring

To implement the Lake Quinault Composite Plan, specific management direction must be set and recognized. This section provides a listing of requirements and monitoring techniques that need to be recognized and annually reviewed as policy by the Forest Service managers at the region, forest and district levels. This listing is not meant to be an inclusive list and should receive periodic updating.

A. Management Requirements

1. Any shoreline facilities to be redeveloped or proposed must be in accordance with the Quinault Indian Nation. It is important to recognize that the interface between the lake and shoreline uses is an important element of Lake Quinault and sets the stage for many recreation users in the composite area. Cooperation between the Forest Service, local residents, and the Quinault Nation in developing a plan for the lake and shoreline should be encouraged.

2. Prior to development of any future land use or redesign and expansion of existing land uses, archaeological and/or historical resources should be investigated at the specific site. An investigation, when required, would be planned by a professional archaeologist and consist of a more intensive on-ground study. If resources are found, they will be evaluated to assure compliance with the National Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order of May 13, 1971. A professional archaeologist or historian approved by the the State of Washington will investigate all identified areas before development is completed which may alter the site.

3. Prior to development of any future land use or expansion of existing land uses, a survey will be conducted for threatened or endangered plant species. If any is found, a more intensive study would be conducted at that time to determine the extent of the habitat and measures available to preserve the habitat.

4. Any future development, whether public or private, must have sewage disposal systems that meet state and county health and water quality standards.

5. Before the Lake Quinault Lodge can expand it must develop a master plan to be approved by the Forest Service.

6. All streams in the composite will be protected from degradation from present or future land uses. Special preventive measures should be undertaken during construction or timber operations.

7. Prior to development of shoreline areas, a survey will be conducted to determine the presence or absence of Copes salamander. If this animal is found, critical habitat evaluations will be made to determine protection needs.

8. Affirm to the current permit holders, both residential and commercial (except the three residences slated for termination), that the Forest Service intends to maintain present permits.

9. Establish a rapport with permit holders on an ongoing basis to enhance the Forest Service's role in the composite area.

B. Monitoring

Part of this plan is the monitoring of areas and/or land uses to determine the best future use or course of action that should be taken by the Forest Service.

Areas to monitor are:

1. Through Grays Harbor Public Health Department monitor on an annual basis septic systems of all permit holders to meet state and county health standards.

2. For compatibility and potential conflicts monitor the recreation residence to the southwest of Willaby Creek and Campground (Lot 25), the residence to the north of Willaby Campground (Lot 40) and two residences to the southwest of future lodge expansion (Lots 61 and 61-A).

3. Monitor and document use patterns for the recreation residences and lodge to identify protection or enhancement needs.

4. Monitor recreation use patterns (type of users, vehicle, length of stay, etc.) for all existing and proposed recreation facilities. Particular interest should be focused on the areas placed in reserve in the preferred plan such as Olallie and Gatton Creek Flat.

5. Monitor the areas designated for open space to determine potential land uses that could occur within these areas.

6. Monitor the "puncheon road" for possible nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

7. Monitor trail systems for impacts from recreation use to identify expansion and/or protection needs.

8. Monitor the Copes salamander habitat and define special management provisions or interpretive facilities that could be established.

9. Monitor the Forest Service administrative and maintenance sites for use patterns and location efficiency. Determine optimum location for efficient sites that are least likely to generate environmental site impacts or conflicts between other uses.

10. Periodically update the monitoring of land uses in the composite to assess compatibility and management direction. Insure that key components of the preferred plan are either adhered to or assessed for their viability and changed accordingly. A key update interval for the Forest Service would be 1988 to develop a viable updated plan for permit assessments in 1989.